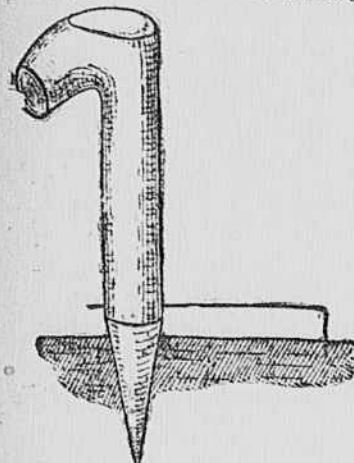


FARM AND GARDEN

SETTING ONION PLANTS.

Convenience by Which This Tedious Work Is Rendered Easy.

Now that the "new onion culture" is so generally employed the planting of onion seedlings is an important subject for consideration. As most readers know, under the new system the onion seed is sown under glass and the seedlings transplanted to the open ground as soon as the season permits. Where many plants have to be set it is a long



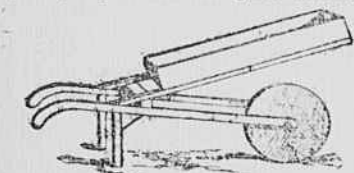
DIBBER FOR SETTING ONION PLANTS.

job, and we should make it as easy as possible by preparing the soil in such a way as to enable the operator to plant without dibber.

The index finger answers every purpose when the land is fresh and "mellow as an ash heap." Sometimes a rain comes and packs the soil after it was already marked out and in best shape for planting. Then a dibber will have to be used. An American Gardening illustrates a dibber made from a piece of apple tree limb or other tough hardwood. Four or five inches is long enough for a dibber for setting onion plants. If we wish to make improvements on it, we can tack a piece of bright tin to the point and also furnish it with a gauge, consisting of a piece of stiff wire, with a perpendicular bend at the free end, and the other inserted through a hole just above the tin at the point. The wire will then make a mark to indicate the place for the next plant. It can be adjusted to mark the distance desired—from two to three inches.

During the season of plant setting a light barrow is a convenient help in carting the plants from the greenhouse or frames to the garden or field. In many cases we have much soil on the roots of plants. On an ordinary wheelbarrow the plants are subjected to many jars and often hard knocks, which are liable to loosen the soil and perhaps shake it all off.

The authority quoted suggests the device here illustrated as meeting the objection. The two pieces on which the box rests should be of white ash or hickory, giving the box when loaded an easy spring. The advantages of this con-



FOR SETTING THE PLANTS.

venience are easily understood, and the whole construction is too plain to need lengthy description. Plats containing tomato, pepper and egg plants, etc., may be loaded right into the box and carted to the field without much shaking.

There is now in the market a two horsepower planting machine, which automatically and successfully sets all kinds of vegetable or small fruit plants thoroughly firm, and at the same time waters them.

Grass Mixtures For Pastures.

Regarding what mixture of grasses ought to be sown on land designed for pasture for three or four years, Prairie Farmer says that very much will depend upon the character of the land, as light or heavy, high or low, dry or moist. On lowlands, with ample moisture, sow a mixture of the seeds of alsike clover, white clover and timothy. Use four pounds alsike clover, two pounds white clover and four pounds of timothy per acre, and if orchard grass is adapted to the climate sow some of that in addition, say two to four pounds per acre.

On medium lands sow common red clover, lucerne, white clover and timothy, and if the land is fairly moist add some alsike. The respective quantities of seed per acre would be approximately as follows: Common red clover, three pounds; lucerne, three pounds; white clover, one pound; alsike, one or two pounds; timothy, four pounds.

Light lands should not be sown to pasture for a long term, as they produce but little pasture relatively. If the seed were plentiful enough, no grass probably would be more suitable for such lands than the Austrian brome.

A Word About Pineapples.

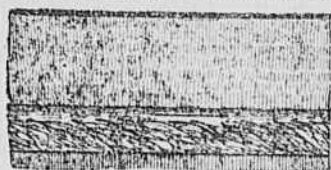
The destruction of orange groves in Florida by freezing is giving more importance to the growing of pineapples. These are cultivated only in localities where frost is unknown, as the pine is so easily destroyed by freezing as

is the orange. It costs \$300 to buy and set an acre of pineapples. But with a good crop an acre will sometimes yield \$1,000. The pineapple requires very rich land, and with frequent manuring will produce two to four crops before the setting fails, after which the land must be given a rest.—American Cultivator.

BRUSH AND STONE DRAINS.

Both Are Very Useful and Entirely Practical Under Certain Conditions.

Boggy land cannot well be drained at first with either stone or tile unless there is a plank or board laid in the bottom of the ditch, and if there is a large quantity of brush present by all means use it in the pioneer work, which may be made to result in bringing the land under proper cultivation. Dig drains through the marsh about three feet deep and fill them half full of brush, lopping the branches where they prevent the brush from lying close. Place the tops of the branches down stream. Over all place a good covering of straw or some other coarse material to prevent the earth from sifting into the drain. If, as

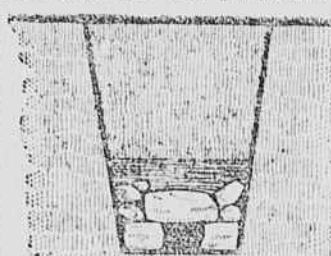


A BRUSH DRAIN.

is likely to be the case, this brush is constantly immersed in water, it will last for many years and do the work required most effectively.

When the ground has become settled, stone or tile drains should be substituted for the brush. If stone is used, it should be remembered that the ditches must be deeper than if filled, since in filling the drain the top of it will come nearly a foot nearer the surface than the tile drain, and it might become obstructed if mice and other vermin are present, by their digging down to the top of the drain and allowing the earth and silt to sift into it. Stone drains, if well laid, as shown, and put not less than 3 1/2 or 4 feet deep, will stand perfectly, and to all intents and purposes are as good as tile. When the only expense of the brush drain is in labor, it all depends upon the financial side of the labor question. By all means, beginning at the lower end of the marsh, try some of these drains, placing them at the most not less than 30 to 40 feet apart, if the land is to be thoroughly and effectively drained.

Of course the brush will rot in a few years if the supply of water from beneath does not keep them fairly well submerged, but this is not likely to be the case, since in such ground the wa-



A WELL LAID STONE DRAIN.

ter oozes from the bottom, and since the passage through the drain is slow. Country Gentleman, authority for the foregoing, adds that poles and even cordwood are used under such circumstances with success. With the former a throat can be made of fairly good size, which in some respects will look like the stone drain shown.

A Word About Ducks.

In mating one drake to six ducks will be sufficient, says one authority. They should be in good condition, but not too fat. Duck eggs hatch remarkably well. They require four weeks to incubate before hatching. Give the setter a warm, clean nest, free from lice, and give her good care, and you will have a good hatch. The day you expect the ducklings to come out do not disturb the mother, she will prefer to remain on the nest, and if she had plenty of food and water the day before she will not suffer by it. When you think part of the ducklings are out, gently remove the mother, take out shells and replace the mother. Let the ducklings remain with the mother, as they will need her vitality.

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